

storing a value corresponding to the total units consumed in a second  
memory area; and [is stored],

updating the second area [being updated] only when the number of units  
consumed exceeds or attains the number of bits not stored [bits of] in the first area [(A)].

2. (Amended) A method of managing a counter according to Claim 1,  
[characterised in that] wherein the units consumed are recorded in the first area [(A)]  
cyclically.

3. (Amended) A management method according to [Claims 1 and 2,  
characterised in that] claim 1, wherein an operation of recording n units consumed  
comprises the following steps:

- reading the content of the first area [(A)] and comparing the number of  
not stored bits (L) in the first area [(A)] with the number of consumed units (n) to be  
recorded,

- if [this] the number of not stored bits (L) is greater than or equal to the  
number of units (n) to be recorded, storing the bits (n) to be recorded [are stored in the] in  
said first area [(A)],

- if [this] the number (L) is less [,] than n, storing L bits [are stored] in the  
first area [(A)] and [the] recording (n-L) remaining units [are recorded] in the second area  
[(B)] by performing an operation of updating this area, and

erasing the first area [(A) is erased].

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4. (Amended) A management method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that] claim 3, wherein an operation of updating the second area [(B)] comprises a step of writing in this second area a new coded counter value equal to the current value to which the number of stored bits in the first area [(A)] and the (n-L) remaining consumed units to be stored are added.

5. (Amended) A management method according to Claim 4, [characterised in that] wherein the updating comprises a prior step of recording indicator information [(C2)] signifying that an updating is currently being carried out.

6. (Amended) A management method according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that] claim 5, wherein the unit counter has an area [(SB)] for backing up the second area [(B)] and [in that] these two areas each have a field for recording a redundancy code [(CR, SCR)], for checking the integrity of the content of these two areas.

7. (Amended) A management method according to [Claims 4 and 5, characterised in that] claim 6, wherein an operation of recording n units consumed also comprises a prior step of verifying the state of the counter comprising the following operations:

- verifying the absence of the indicator information for a current update:

- where the indicator information is [indeed] absent:

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. where the fields are valid:

. where the fields are not valid:

- where the indicator information is present:

- activation of the recovery operation to re-establish the

- recording the indicator information [(C2)],

- copying, in the backup area [(SB)], the coded value [(V0)] of the counter

- erasing the indicator information [(C2)].

9. (Amended) A management method according to Claim 8, [characterised in

that] wherein the recovery operation [consists in] comprises determining at which step the abnormality occurred, and then performing, according to the circumstances determined, the

steps of updating at least one of the backup area, [(SB) and/or of] the second area [(B) and/or of] and the first area [(A)].

10. (Amended) A management method according to Claim 9, [characterised in that] wherein the determination of the step at which the abnormality occurred [consists in] comprises reading the content of each of the areas in order to determine whether the abnormality occurred during the updating of the backup area [(SB)], case 1, during the updating of the second area [(B)], case 2, during the erasure of the first area [(A)], case 3, between the updating of the second area [(B)] and the backup area [(SB)], case 4, or after the updating of these two areas, case 5, and:

[. in] for case 1 [in]:

- copying the value contained in the second area [(B)] into the backup area [(SB)],

- updating the second area [(B)] by recording the new value which is equal to the old one to which the content of the first area [(A)] is added,

- erasing the first area [(A)], and

- erasing the indicator information [(C2)];

[. in] for case 2 [in]:

- copying into the second area [(B)] the value contained in the backup area [(SB)] by adding the value contained in the first area [(A)],

- erasing the first area [(A)], and

- erasing the indicator information [(C2)];

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[. in] for case 3 [in]:

- erasing the content of the first area [(A)], and
- erasing the indicator information [(C2)];

[. in] for case 4 [in]:

- implementing the steps according to case 2;

[. in] for case 5 [in]:

- implementing the steps according to case 3.

11. (Amended) A management method according to [any one of the preceding claims, characterised in that it comprises] claim 5, further including the step of recording information signifying a failure [(C1)] in reading or writing to the first area, [(A)] deactivating [the] said area when it has not been possible to read or write in this area, [and a step of reading this] reading said information signifying a failure at each new cycle, and directly recording the units consumed [then being directly recorded] in a coded manner by an operation of updating the second area [(B)].

12. (Amended) A management method according to [Claim 5 and] Claim 11, [characterised in that] wherein the information [(C2)] indicating a current updating and the information signifying a failure [(C1)] in reading and writing to the first area are recorded in a third area [(C)] of [the] said counter.

~~Cancel claims 13 and 14, and add the following new claims:~~

17. The security module of claim 16, wherein said terminal is a telephony terminal.--